

Date Used: _____

Group: _____

GOD IN A BOD

Topic: Jesus Christ

Purpose of this Session:

One of the best studies you can instigate with junior high students is on the life of Christ. As their thinking ability matures, they have a great need to re-discover the Christ they have encountered previously only in Bible stories and in Sunday School lessons. Who is He? This TalkSheet was designed to focus attention on Christ, His attributes, and how the students can learn to know Him personally.

To Introduce the Topic:

Assemble several familiar pictures of Jesus. Some depict Him as "meek and mild", others show Him suffering, and still others show Him laughing. Ask the group to decide which is the most accurate portrayal of their idea of the real Jesus Christ.

Another lead-in is to give the students a list of events during the life of Christ, such as His baptism, the Sermon on the Mount, different miracles, parables, etc. Divide the group into competing teams which will try to arrange the events chronologically. The right answers are available in a Bible dictionary, a parallel version of the New Testament, or some other resource dealing with the life of Christ.

The Discussion:

Item #1: Ask the students to reveal the words they circled and the words they crossed out. Ask them to give reasons for their answers. Have them think of other words to describe Jesus.

Item #2: This can be fun and can help the students think of Christ as more than just an historical figure. Ask what kind of person they think Jesus would be if He were living today, in their town. Try to get away from the "Jesus in the carpenter shop" mind-set and think of Him as a modern-day teenager. This may be difficult for them to do, but reassure them there is no right or wrong answer. Simply try to picture Jesus in today's world and have them give reasons for their descriptions. If possible, ask them to recall scripture to substantiate their ideas.

Item #3: Ask for several different responses. It would be wise for you to prepare an answer yourself and to share it with the students after they have responded. "Does believing in Jesus make any difference in your life?" is a good follow-up question.

Item #4: Have several junior highers share their completed sentences.

To Close the Session:

Share with your students what Christ means to you. If you can, stress what knowing Christ has done for your life. An appropriate scripture is John 9:25: "All I know is this — once I was blind and now I see!" It isn't as important to define Christ as it is to let Christ change our lives. The only way we can understand Christ is to encounter Him, to experience His power in our lives.

Help your students think of Christ as a friend, someone who will stay close to them and to whom they can always take their problems. Invite them to enter into a personal relationship with Jesus.

Outside Activities:

Undertake a detailed study of the life of Christ with your students.